



# PACKAGING AND PRODUCT SPECIFIC PROGRAMS

W2RAC May 21, 2013



# Agenda



- Revisit “parking lot” topics
- We will discuss:
  - ▣ Existing conditions, state goals, key issues, definitions, current work, potential ideas to achieve goals
- We hope to gain:
  - ▣ Increased understanding
  - ▣ Unified ideas for future work



# Existing Conditions

- **Residential recycling for households**
  - ▣ 85% curbside and 50% recycling rate
  - ▣ Drop-off locations for rural areas
- **Commercial recycling**
  - ▣ Available on a lesser scale
  - ▣ Separate bill from garbage
- **Moderate risk waste collection**
  - ▣ 57 facilities in 32 counties
  - ▣ Collection events





# Definitions

- **Product-specific programs address:**
  - ▣ Specific products or a class of products – e.g. electronics, wheel weights, children’s products, etc.
- **Packaging programs address:**
  - ▣ Materials that hold a product or group of products – focus on primary consumer packaging – cans, bottles, cartons, etc.
- **Strategies include:**
  - ▣ Existing or future product stewardship **and**
  - ▣ Other ways to increase recycling or reduce waste & toxics



# State Hierarchy and Goals

- Waste reduction, recycling, then safe disposal
  - ▣ *RCW 70.95, 70.95C and 70.105*
  
- Related Goals
  - ▣ Reduce waste, toxicity and GHG emissions
  - ▣ Increase collection and recycling
  - ▣ Provide sustainable financing
  - ▣ Improved product design and manufacturing



# Key Issues

- ❑ Valuable resources and toxic materials still get landfilled
  - ❑ Landfills are not failsafe
- ❑ Limited recycling options in some areas, even for common items
- ❑ Limited funding to increase recycling and reduce waste & toxics
- ❑ Debate on who should fund and best way to collect





# Descriptions of Current Work:

## Product-Specific Examples

### □ Oversight of product stewardship **laws**

- E-Cycle: TVs, laptops, monitors, e-readers
- Mercury-containing lights



### □ Implement product specific **laws**

- Copper brake pads
- Lead wheel weights
- Toxics in packaging
- Mercury products
- Children's products
- PBDEs
- Copper boat paint
- Coal-tar sealants



# Descriptions of Current Work: More Product-Specific Examples

- Track stewardship discussions & pending legislation
  - ▣ Carpet, Paint, Rechargeable Batteries
- Voluntary industry stewardship
  - ▣ Initiatives for carpet, batteries
- Market development work for carpet; e.g.
  - ▣ Recycled content carpet
  - ▣ Reduce asbestos content





# Descriptions of Current Work:

## Packaging Examples

- ❑ Participate in packaging stewardship discussions
- ❑ Participate in EPA financing recycling discussions
- ❑ Track Ameripen and other industry group work on “optimizing” current curbside recycling system
- ❑ With NWPSC, partnering with industry group on pilot to increase recycling of cups and cartons
- ❑ Lead commingled recycling work groups

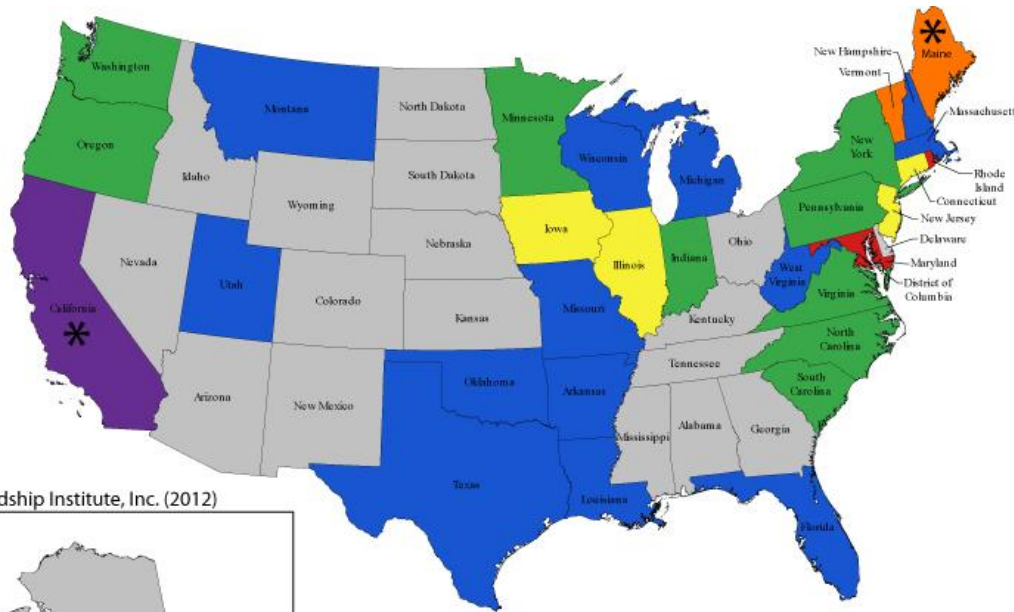


# Opportunity & Demand

## Stewardship State Laws January 2013

### Product Categories

- Auto Switches
- Batteries
- Carpet
- Cell Phones
- Electronics
- Fluorescent Lighting
- Mercury Thermostats
- Paint
- Pesticide Containers



Source: Product Stewardship Institute, Inc. (2012)

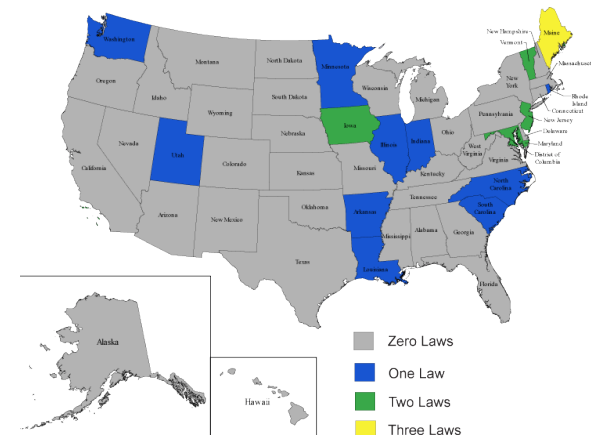


### Number of Product Categories Covered by EPR Law

- Zero
- One
- Two
- Three
- Four
- Five
- Six

\* Other laws authorizing agencies to require EPR, including Framework laws.

### State Laws in 2006





# Potential Future Work



**We'd like your help generating ideas on:**

- ▣ Potential strategies that could help achieve goals
- ▣ How we can best use current staff resources

We'll compile and consider the groups' advice as we balance planning with budget constraints



# Potential Strategies to Achieve Goals for Packaging and Products

- **Higher recycling goal**
  - ▣ Proposed in CAT report, done in CA, FL, NY
- **Mandatory recycling**
  - ▣ Proposed in the CAT report, done in Seattle
- **Recycled content (or reuse) requirement laws**
  - ▣ Used in CA, OR, WI, elsewhere
- **Up front product fees**
  - ▣ Used for auto batteries, tires



# Potential Strategies to Achieve Goals for Packaging and Products – More...

- **Recycling incentives**
  - ▣ Bottle bills are successful elsewhere, requested here
- **Carefully planned landfill bans**
  - ▣ Bans are a common tool across much of the U.S.
- **Product use bans**
  - ▣ Lead wheel weights, bags in some areas
- **Build on existing authority to regulate toxics in products**
  - ▣ Finding safer alternatives, promote green chemistry
- **Other ideas...?**





**Thanks for your input!**

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